Listing of Claims:

1.   (original)   A digital rights client for decoding a digital rights key, the digital rights key having permission information, a security parameter index and a digital signature, the digital rights client comprising:

a digital signature calculation block operative to receive the permission information and the security parameter index from a received digital rights key and to calculate a reference digital signature based on the permission information and the security parameter index; and

a comparitor operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block to validate the digital rights key by comparing at least the digital signature received from the digital rights key with the reference digital signature from the digital signature calculation block.

2.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 1,

wherein the comparitor generates a validation indication; and

wherein the digital rights client further comprises an interpreter operatively coupled to the comparitor to interpret the permission information received in the digital rights key and to grant use of digital rights based on the validation indication in accordance with contents of the permission information.

3.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 2,

wherein the digital rights key has permission information in clear text; and

wherein the interpreter interprets the clear text to grant use of digital rights based on the validation indication.

·4.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 2,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a destination identifier; and

wherein the interpreter grants use of particular feature ID digital rights based on the validation indication and a comparison of the destination identifier.

5.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 2,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a feature ID and a number of feature units; and

wherein the interpreter grants use of particular feature ID digital rights based on the validation indication and a comparisons of the feature ID and a number of feature units.

6.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 2,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a type designation; and

wherein the interpreter grants use of particular feature ID digital rights based on the validation indication and a comparison of the type designation.

7.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 1, wherein the comparitor is operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block to validate the digital rights key by comparing the digital signature received from the digital rights key and the reference digital signature from the digital signature calculation block.

8.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 7,

wherein the digital rights key has permission information in clear text; and

wherein the interpreter interprets the clear text to grant use of digital rights based on the validation indication.

9.   (original)   A digital rights client according to claim 1, further comprising an XML decoder operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block and the comparator to identify XML tags and parse

parameter index for the digital signature calculation block, and the digital signature in the digital rights key for the comparator.

10.   (original)   A digital rights key, comprising:

a permission information portion for identifying digital rights permitted by the digital rights key;

a digital signature portion; and

a security parameter index portion identifying a secret and an identified algorithm to be used by a digital rights client for interpreting at least the digital signature portion.

11.   (original)   A digital rights key according to claim 10, wherein the permission information of the digital rights key is in clear text.

12.   (original)   A digital rights key according to claim 10, wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a destination identifier.

13.   (original)   A digital rights key according to claim 10, wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a feature ID and a number of feature units.

14.   (original)   A digital rights key according to claim 10, further comprising XML tags adjacent to the permission information portion, the digital signature portion and the security parameter index portion to identify individual elements of the digital rights key.

15.   (original)   A digital rights key according to claim 14, wherein the XML tags comprise:

a permission information portion begin tag and a permission information portion end tag at respective ends of the permission information portion;

a digital signature portion begin tag and a digital signature portion end tag at respective ends of the digital signature portion;

a security parameter index portion beginning tag and a security parameter index portion end tag at respective ends of the security parameter index portion; and

a key begin tag and a key end tag, at respective ends of the key, and encompassing said permission information portion begin tag and the permission information portion end tag, said digital signature portion beginning tag and the digital signature portion end tag, and said security parameter index portion beginning tag and the security parameter index portion end tag.

16.   (original)   A digital rights source for encoding a digital rights key, the digital rights key having permission information, a security parameter index and a signature, the digital rights source comprising:

a selector for selecting a security parameter index among a plurality of security parameter indexes;

a digital signature calculation block operatively coupled to the selector to receive the selected security parameter index and to calculate a digital signature using the selected security parameter index and permission information; and

an assembler operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block to assemble the digital rights key using the calculated digital signature and permission information.

17.   (original)   A digital rights source according to claim 16,

wherein the digital rights key has permission information in clear text; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the clear text permission information; and

wherein the digital signature calculation block calculates the digital signature using at least the clear text permission information.

18.   (original)   A digital rights source according to claim 16,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a destination identifier; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the destination identifier.

19.   (original)   A digital rights source according to claim 16,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a feature ID and a number of feature units; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the feature ID and a number of feature units.

20.   (original)   A digital rights source according to claim 16,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key comprises a type designation; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the type designation.

21.   (original)   A digital rights source according to claim 16, wherein the Assembler comprises an XML encoder operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block and to receive the permission information to provide XML tags surrounding the permission information and the digital signature to produce at least one digital rights key.

22.   (new)   The digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 16.

23.   (new)   The digital rights key decoded by the digital rights client of claim 1.

24.　　(new)　A digital rights source for encoding the digital rights key decoded by the digital rights client of claim 1.

25.　　(new)　A digital rights source for encoding the digital rights key of claim 10.

26.　　(new)　A digital rights client for decoding the digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 16.

27.　　(new)　A digital rights client for decoding a digital rights key of claim 10.